



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### GASTROPARESIS AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Gastroparesis is a chronic illness caused by a neuromuscular dysfunction of the stomach that impedes the movement of food through the body. More than five million Americans are affected by gastroparesis, yet many individuals are unaware of the condition; and
- WHEREAS: Related digestive motility disorders in any region of the digestive tract produce chronic motor and sensory disturbances characterized by a weakened, spastic, or failed digestive system and result in further food propulsions; and
- WHEREAS: Gastroparesis is commonly referred to as "paralysis of the stomach," as individuals affected by gastroparesis may experience debilitating pain, nausea, vomiting, or early satiety that can lead to serious complications such as malnourishment, dehydration, extreme weight loss, or overwhelming fatigue; and
- WHEREAS: There is no known cure for gastroparesis and few treatment options are available for patients. The lack of treatment calls for awareness initiatives to help ensure that those in the health care community and their patients can properly recognize this illness and diagnose accordingly; and
- WHEREAS: More research is needed to provide better treatment options and to help find a cure for gastroparesis. Greater awareness and understanding of gastroparesis and other digestive motility disorders will help members of Georgia's communities to recognize the challenges associated with digestive motility disorders so that they may better support those affected; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2018 as GASTROPARESIS AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF